

EXHIBIT A



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13768.167

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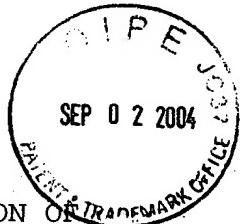
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

DEEN, BRIAN

DOC DATE: 03/02/2001

ASSIGNOR:

HOPMANN, ALEX

DOC DATE: 03/06/2001

ASSIGNOR:

SODERBERG, JOEL

DOC DATE: 03/07/2001

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SEP 08 2004

SERIAL NUMBER: 09679720

Technology Center 2100

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FILING DATE: 10/04/2000

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011576/0455 PAGE 2

JEEVON JONES, EXAMINER
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION
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03-15-2001



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cket No.: 13768.167

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MPD Patent and Trademark Office

3.12.01

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Brian Deen
Alex Hopmann
Joel Soderberg

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies)

Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other _____

Execution Date: _____

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

Patent Application No. Filing date

09/679,720 October 4, 2000

B. Patent No.(s)

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Additional numbers

Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Rick D. Nydegger

Registration No. 28,651

Address: _____



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____

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6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

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23-3178

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To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Rick D. Nydegger

Name of Person Signing

Signature

MARCH 12, 2001

Date

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Workman, Nydegger & Seeley
1000 Eagle Gate Tower
60 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No: 13768.167

Express Mailing Label No. EJ 824 266 614 US

A S S I G N M E N T

WHEREAS, we, Brian Deen, Alex Hopmann, and Joel Soderberg, (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNS), having post office addresses of, 345 Ogle Place NE, North Bend, WA 98045; 1635 35th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122; and 13812 68th Avenue, West, Edmonds, WA 98026, respectively, are the joint inventors of an invention entitled "ROUTING CLIENT REQUESTS TO BACK-END SERVERS," as described and claimed in the specification forming part of an application for United States letters patent;

Said invention being disclosed in a United States patent application executed heretofore and now identified as File No. 13768.167 of the law firm of Workman, Nydegger & Seeley, 1000 Eagle Gate Tower, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, and filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as Serial No. 09/679,720 on October 4, 2000.

WHEREAS, Microsoft Corporation (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNEE), a corporation of the State of Washington having a place of business at One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in and to the invention and in and to any letters patent that may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, ASSIGNS hereby sell, assign, and transfer unto said ASSIGNEE, the entire right, title, and interest in and to said invention, said application and any and all letter patent which may be granted for said invention in the United States of America and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries, and in any and all divisions, reissues, and continuations thereof, including the right to file foreign applications directly in the name of ASSIGNEE and to claim priority rights deriving from said United States application to which said foreign applications are entitled by virtue of international convention, treaty, or otherwise, said invention, application, and all letters patent on said invention to be held and enjoyed by ASSIGNEE and its successors and assigns for their use and benefit and of their successors and assigns as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by ASSIGNS had this assignment, transfer, and sale not been made. ASSIGNS hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue all letters patent on said invention to ASSIGNEE. ASSIGNS agree to execute all instruments and documents required for the making and prosecution of applications for United States and foreign letters patent on said invention, for litigation regarding said letters patent, or for the purpose of protecting title to said invention or letters patent therefore.

Dated this 2 day of March, 2001.

Brian Deen
Brian Deen
US Citizen

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

: ss.

COUNTY OF KING)

On March 2, 2001, before me personally appeared Brian Deen, known to me to be the person described and who signed the foregoing Assignment in my presence and acknowledged under oath before me that he/she has read the same and know the contents thereof and that he/she executed the same as his/her free act and deed and for the purposes set forth therein.

Julia Lee Lengkeek
NOTARY PUBLIC

Residing at Redmond, Washington

My Commission Expires: 12-30-2001

Dated this 2 day of March, 2001.

Alex Hopmann
Alex Hopmann
US Citizen

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

: ss.

COUNTY OF KING)

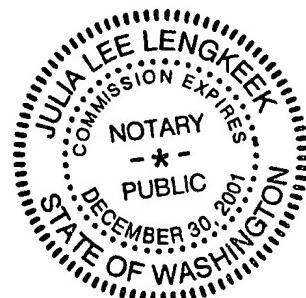
On March 2, 2001, before me personally appeared Alex Hopmann, known to me to be the person described and who signed the foregoing Assignment in my presence and acknowledged under oath before me that he/she has read the same and know the contents thereof and that he/she executed the same as his/her free act and deed and for the purposes set forth therein.

Julia Lee Lengkeek
NOTARY PUBLIC

Residing at Redmond, Washington

My Commission Expires: 12-30-2001

Dated this 2 day of March, 2001.



Joel Soderberg
US Citizen

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

: ss.

COUNTY OF KING)

On March 7, 2001, before me personally appeared Joel Soderberg, known to me to be the person described and who signed the foregoing Assignment in my presence and acknowledged under oath before me that he/she has read the same and know the contents thereof and that he/she executed the same as his/her free act and deed and for the purposes set forth therein.

Julia Lee Lengkeek
NOTARY PUBLIC

Residing at Redmond, Washington

My Commission Expires: 12-30-2001



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